

REMARKS

This Response, submitted in reply to the Office Action dated September 10, 2004, is believed to be fully responsive to each point of rejection raised therein. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration on the merits is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-16 are all the claims pending in the application. Claims 15 remains allowable over the art of record but remains objected to for depending on rejected base claims. Claims 1, 8/1, 11-14 and 16 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by Maeda. Claims 2-3, 4/2, 4/3 and 6 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Maeda in view of Kodama. Claims 5, 7 and 8/7 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Maeda. Claims 9-10 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Maeda in view of Ohmori. All references are previously of record.

The Examiner maintains that Maeda teaches each feature of independent claim 1. In particular, the Examiner continues to maintain that a slot 22a in Maeda comprises a loading chamber for holding recording materials.

The mechanical connection provided by 22a does not hold recording materials. The Examiner agrees that a chamber (Fig. 35, element 25b) in the printer is a loading chamber. The Examiner acknowledges that the (printer) chamber 25b holds the materials, but chamber lacks an electrical connection. Detailed Action, page 2, lines 13-19. The Examiner has already acknowledged that the printer holds the recording media, not the element 22a. Detailed Action, page 5, lines 1-2. Therefore, the record already establishes that the chamber 25b holds the medium but lacks the electrical connection and thus element 25b does not meet all features of

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claim 1. The record further establishes that element 22a does not hold recording materials as required by claim 1. The anticipation rejection is contradicted within the record.

The Examiner's continued reliance on the slot 22a as a chamber that holds recording media is not supported. In effect, the Examiner construes **both** the slot 22a and a relevant chamber of the printer as the "loading chamber" of claim 1 because both the slot 22a and the chamber 25b are necessary to provide the "holding" of the recording material. Claim 1 further requires an electrical connection in the loading chamber to place an extending device **in the loading chamber in place of the recording materials, for extending a particular function of the electronic still camera**. As discussed above, the Examiner concedes that there is no electrical connection in chamber 25b.

To the extent that the Examiner relies on element 22a for the electrical connection, the final aspect of the claim is not met. In particular, replacement of the **recording materials in the loading chamber 25b** of Maeda is not going to provide any extension of function via an extending device. If the Examiner construes replacement of the printer entirely as replacement of the recording materials, then the **replacement of the printer from the slot 22a** will completely eliminate one of the features recited in claim 1. In particular, claim 1 includes a camera section and a printing section. Therefore, claim 1 is not anticipated, and the remaining claims are patentable. Kodama and Mori do not make up for the deficiencies of Maeda.

With further regard to claim 16, this claim describes that the loading chamber accommodates the physical dimensions of the recording materials within boundary surfaces of the loading chamber. To the extent that the Examiner relies on element 22a as the loading chamber, there is no conceivable way that a recording material falls within the narrow confines

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of the slot 22a. To the extent the Examiner expands the chamber to include element 22a and the printer chamber 25b, the requirements of base claim 1 are completely lacking for the reasons discussed above.

In further regard to claim 16, the Examiner notes that “the circumference of the loading chamber are boundary surfaces, and as such, since [A] the printer is within the circumference of the loading chamber then [B] the recording materials are within the circumference of the loading chamber and as such are within boundary surfaces of the loading chamber.” Detailed Action, pages 6. This logic fails entirely. With regard to statement [A], there is no basis for the Examiner to contend that the printer 25 is within the circumference 22a. Fig. 35 clearly shows printer 25 extends the width of a case 22, and a slot 22a only extends part of the width of case 22. The printer extends outside of circumference of slot 22a. With regard to statement [B], the recording materials can be disposed in a region of a chamber 25b above or below or extending past the slot 22a. Any ambiguities on this point render the anticipation rejection unsupportable. At a minimum, the anticipation rejection of claim 16 should be withdrawn.

With further regard to claims 2, 3, 4/2, 4/3, 6, 9 and 10, these claims describe particular types of extending devices. While the Examiner cites secondary references of Kodama and Ohmori to teach auxiliary power supplies and memory devices, the claims require more than these functions. In claim 1, the extending devices are placed **in place of recording materials**. The provision of the extension functions in an auxiliary connector does not meet the requirement that the extending device be placed in a loading chamber **in place of recording materials** to provide the particular functions.

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In view of the above, Applicant submits that claims 1-16 are in condition for allowance and should be passed to issue at the earliest possible time. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.


Respectfully submitted,

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Date: December 2, 2004